

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 03962 060118 Z

15

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 AID-20 RSR-01 /063 W

----- 123067

R 051549 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1488

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, EAID, XF

SUBJECT: ESTABLISHMENT OF AAFLI REGIONAL OFFICE IN BEIRUT

1. ROBERT WHOLEY, REPRESENTATIVE OF ASIAN- AMERICAN FREE LABOR INSTITUTE (AAFLI) VISITED BEIRUT MAR 15-22 TO DISCUSS POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING REGIONAL OFFICE FOR AAFLI COVERING ACTIVITIES IN TURKEY, JORDAN AND CYPRUS, PLUS REGIONAL SEMINARS ETC., WHICH WOULD INCLUDE LEBANON AND, IN FUTURE, POSSIBLY OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES. WHOLEY CONSULTED WITH WIDE RANGE TRADE UNION AND OTHER OFFICIALS HERE, PLUS EMBASSY OFFICIALS. REACTION TO PROPOSAL FROM LEBANESE UNIFORMLY FAVORABLE TO SUCH OFFICE.

2. AAFLI OPERATION HERE WOULD BE LOW- PROFILE ONE. WHOLEY EN- VISAGES OFFICE AS ESSENTIALLY ONE- MAN OPERATION, SEPARATE FROM, BUT OF COURSE IN CONTACT WITH EMBASSY. THIS FITS IN WELL WITH EMBASSY VIEWS AND LABATT WAS CAREFUL TO MAINTAIN IMAGE OF AAFLI AS ORGAN OF AFL- CIO THROUGHOUT WHOLEY VISIT AND WOULD CONTINUE TO DO SO IN FUTURE.

3. EMBASSY SUPPORTS ESTABLISHMENT AAFLI OFFICE BEIRUT. IT PROVIDES WESTERN LABOR MOVEMENT PRESENCE

IN MIDDLE EAST. BEIRUT GOOD REGIONAL LOCATION FOR TRAINING CENTER; AND LAST BUT NOT LEAST PROVIDES, IN LIGHT ARAB LABOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MOVEMENT'S CONVICTION US LABOR MOVEMENT SOELY INTERESTED IN ISRAEL, LATTER POINT PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT IN CONTEXT STRONG MISSIONARY EFFORT BY COMMUNIST COUNTRIES IN LABOR FIELD THIS AREA.

4. SUCCESS OF PROJECT OBVIOUSLY DEPENDENT ON PERSONALITY AND ABILITY FIRST AAFI REPRESENTATIVE. HE SHOULD BE PERSON OF SOME SOPHISTICATION IN DEALING WITH FOREIGN TRADE UNIONISTS AND LABOR OFFICIALS AND APPRECIATE IMPORTANCE OF CLOSE BUT INDEPENDENT RELATIONSHIP WITH EMBASSY, PARTICULARLY AS CONCERNS POLITICAL MATTERS.
BUFFUM

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BEIRUT03962
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730433/aaaahnzj.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12-Oct-2001 by eisnerah>; APPROVED <15-Nov-2001 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 971121
Subject: ESTABLISHMENT OF AAFLI REGIONAL OFFICE IN BEIRUT
TAGS: EAID, ELAB, XF
To: AMMAN
ANKARA
NEA
NICOSIA
SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

